

"Where else can you tell someone they didn't do too good of a job and they thank you ..."

# The Oracle

Dec 97 A Goddard Toastmasters Club Publication Volume 1, Issue 3

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1997/98

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## Division Humorous Speech Contest

by Maureen Armbruster  
by Dan Mandl

Just a quick update on how things went on October 31 for those of you who couldn't make it. The Division Contest definitely had a Halloween theme with candy corn center pieces on each of the tables & decorations of tombstones & witches. Many participants & audience mem-

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## Humorous Speech Contest

by Jeff Bolognese - VP-PR

There's nothing particularly funny about the evening of October 3rd, unless your talking about the Area 45 Humorous Speech contest. On that night, audience members got to hear three of the area's most humorous speakers battle for the chance to represent Area 45 at the Division D contest. And I can say that, because I

## What Is Toastmaster's About?

by Bill Pullen, VP Education

Toastmasters is much more than just speaking. Yes, we learn to be better communicators through speaking, but what are the other things we get? In this article I want to touch on the subject of group dynamics.

It has been proven through everyday experiences as well as through research finding that people in organizations spend a large

amount of time in interpersonal interaction. Many of these exchanges take place in groups. Homer wrote that "When many are got together, you can be guided by him whose counsel is wisest. If a man is alone he is less full of resource and his wit is weaker."

Look at our clubs dynamics. Where else can you tell someone they didn't do too good of a job and

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was one of the speakers!

Having won our club contest, I went up against two fellow Toastmasters, Bill Gallager, and Melissa Riley. Both of whom are experienced

humorous speakers having competed in previous area contests. Bill Gallager, in fact, had gone all the way a couple of years ago and won

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“...the Goddard Club was about quality not quantity.”

## Why Toastmasters?

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they thank you for that information. That has a lot to do with personal characteristics. People often join organization because of the need to affiliate with others, people who we believe have personal characteristics similar to our own. Remember when you came to your first Toastmasters meeting? Can you truly say that you never looked at the dynamics of that club, and that it played no part in your decision to join. Our club is a dynamic club. It stands for all the right things in Toastmasters. I learned that about our club long before I became a member, when a

member told me that the Goddard Club was about quality not quantity. Its more important to take the time and do a great speech than to rush to get ten speeches done just to get a CTM award. That's dynamic! I would like to close this article by saying that our club members care about each other. I have never run into any of you and didn't receive a smile.

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## Humorous Speech Contest

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the District 36 contest. Stiff competition, indeed!

I drew the first speaking slot, Melissa second, and Bill, third. There are a couple of thoughts on which position is best. Some people like to speak first and get it out of the way without being influenced by the other speeches. Personally, I prefer to speak last. Although it's a bit nerve racking waiting (tip: use a

GOOD antiperspirant), it gives you a chance to see all the speakers strengths and weaknesses before you present.

Competition seems to bring out the best in some people and all the speeches were presented very well. They were also 3 very different speeches. My speech was about expressions such as "this isn't exactly brain surgery", and postulated how they originated and what they might be in the

## Coming Events

**Jan 28, 1998 11:30 AM**

**What makes a winning speech?** This will be a multi-club event at Goddard. Space Speakers and Paliament Speakers will join Goddard at Goddard. Bill Pullen will present a Judging Wokrshop for the first half hour. Dan Mandl will present the sometimes counterintuitive nature of winning contests for the second half hour. Finally, we will open the floor to discussion on the presented topics.

**February 11, 1998**

**11:30 AM**

**Club Level International Speech and Evaluation Contest**

future. Melissa's speech was presented as a meeting of "Guinea Pigs Anonymous" where she confessed to being a sucker for volunteering for just about any activity asked of her. Bill's speech talked about the greatest pickup line ever; the one that introduced him to his wife.

Aside from topics, the speeches were presented very differently. Melissa gave her speech from be-

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## President's Corner: SET YOUR GOALS!

With the New Year just around the corner, it seems the appropriate time to reevaluate goals. As a new member of Toastmasters, your goals probably included improving your speaking skills and overcoming the fear of public speaking. After you completed several speeches, perhaps you wanted to tackle more challenging goals, i.e. serving as and Evaluator or as Toastmaster of the Day. The most intriguing aspect of Toastmasters is that there are always more challenging goals you can set for yourself. If one of your goals is to develop leadership skills, you can serve as a club officer. After you tackle that goal, you can continue to grow through serving as an Area or Division officer. Since Toastmas-

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ters is a club where you learn through participation, you are the only one who can determine what goals to set next. Stephen R. Covey's book titled "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" states, "Be Pro Active: Take the initiative and the responsibility to make things happen", and "Begin With an End in Mind: Start with a clear destination to understand where you are now, where you are going, and what you value most."

Martha O'Bryan

## Humor

*(Continued from page 2)*

hind the lectern. She didn't use props, and, for the most part, the humor was subtler than the other speeches. My speech used some props, and brought me out in front of the lectern more. Bill's speech incorporated props, and much more physical humor than either my speech or Melissa's.

When the dust and laughs finally settled, Bill came in first, and I came in second. Bill will go on to represent the Area 45 at the October 31st Division D contest.

They always say that everyone who competes is a winner, but I tend to think that the audience is the real winner. They get a nice meal, good, funny entertainment and don't spend the evening worrying that their deodorant won't hold out.

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Military terms, "Sergeant", "Arms" always gives the impression of strength in forces and weap-

## The Power of the Sgt at Arms

by Jeane Ryan, CTM

ons! Sounds very ominous to say the least. As far as the ranking goes within Toastmasters the Sgt. at Arms though is the least significant position and has the lesser number of tasks and responsibilities. It is however, truly a mighty position to hold.

When a member or a new comer enters the meeting room it is their first impression that makes them say, "I want to be a part of this Toastmasters Club!". The Sgt. at Arms can easily influence that first impression.

Imagine walking into a room where chaos reigns, chairs and tables are this way and that, table tops are littered with unrelated piles of "who knows what" and the people there scowl and ignore you, no one to welcome you. Would you want to even stay much less think about coming again or joining? I think not.

The Sgt. at Arms can set the stage though so that visitors are welcomed, enticed to stay, look forward to coming again and can't wait to join!

The Sgt. at Arms should arrive early, organize the furniture and clear debris or unrelated items out of the way. See that there are magic markers at the white boards or with the easel tablets. Make sure that the lectern is cleared and positioned correctly. Check that the overhead projector is working and that there is

room for officers and speakers to move to and from the lectern with ease. Order brings tranquility and makes the initial appearance of the room look inviting to that perhaps hesitant new comer.

Liven up the room by displaying the club banner so that the colorful ribbons can be seen. Set out the club agenda/ programs and ballot forms at each place so that members and guests have them easily accessible. Display the "Guest" book with a pen so that visitors may record their presence at our meeting. If possible prior to the start of the meeting, make a list of the visitors and give it to the Club President so that the guests may be formally greeted and welcomed.

Now for the best part and truly the time when the Sgt. at Arms carries the most power, the time to welcome each and everyone coming through the door be they member or visitor. There isn't anything that makes you feel quite so included as a greeting and a welcoming smile. For the club member it is a friendly warm recognition and provides a sense of belonging. For the visitor it is particularly important as they are treading on unfamiliar ground. The welcome at the door is a way of saying "Come on in and

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"We had clowns, a Panda bear and even a "lectern man" ...."

## Motivation:

- Not deciding is a decision
- Successful people trust themselves
- Make failure a new beginning
- Winners make things happen. Losers wait for the right opportunity
- The world is ruled by feelings, not reason.
- Keep a weekly planner. Schedule time for recreation.
- Being overly organized is not a virtue. It can stifle creativity.
- Persistence is a state of mind. Make it a habit.
- "Decca Records" turned down the Beatles in 1962; they said that groups of guitarists were on their way out.
- On my walk today, I saw a weed that had grown through the asphalt pavement. Consider the effort! If a weed can do it, can't you?

## Sergeant

*(Listen, Continued from page 3)*  
join us, we value your being here and we want you to feel comfortable."

Sgt. at Arms can also take the position even further - out to where your thoughts can run free. The Sgt. can arrange for refreshments, wear a costume to set a theme, give the new

comer a little slip of paper that says I'm, Jeane Ryan your Sgt at Arms, this is my phone number x62958, call if you have any questions and please, please do come again and again. The Goddard Toastmasters Club meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the

month from 11:30 to 1:00 pm, meeting room to be announced and we loved to have you join us.

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## Humor Corner by Dan Mandl,CTM

We at Toastmasters are always striving to better ourselves. One technique for achieving this that many people use is affirmations. Here are a few affirmations which you will probably find unique:

- As I let go of my shoulders and feelings of guilt, I can get in touch with my Inner Sociopath.
- I assume full responsibility for my actions, except

the ones that are someone else's fault

- All of me is beautiful and valuable, even the ugly, stupid, and disgusting parts
- I am one with my duality
- The complete lack of evidence is the surest sign that the conspiracy is working
- I am learning that criticism is not nearly as effective as sabotage

- Becoming aware of my character defects leads me to the next step—blame my parents.
- Just for today, I will not sit in my living room all day watching TV. Instead I will move my TV into the bedroom.
- Joan of Arc heard voices too.

## Division D Humorous Speech Contest

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bers came in costume. We had clowns, cheerleaders, Groucho Marx, a Panda Bear, even a "lectern man" complete with a mike (only at a TM event). I'm not sure what the head count was—but it looked like we had well over 50 people in attendance.

The Marriott catered a delicious meal of broiled chicken breast, rice, steamed veggies, rolls, dinner salad,

and a variety of "big" cookies.

There were 7 contestants for the Humorous Speech Contest & another 7 for the Table Topics contest. Area 45 did very well in the competitions. Bill Gallagher, from Space Speakers, brought home the 1st runner-up trophy with his speech entitled "The Greatest Pick Up Line". Chuck Davis, from the Speakezees Club, placed 1st in the Ta-

ble Topics when he responded to the question "What is the most frightening thing that has ever happened to you?" (He talked about popping the question to his wife, Nancy). Be sure to pat Bill & Chuck on the back when you see them. They both did an outstanding job!!

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